



# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **House Armed Services Committee**

### **Floyd D. Spence, Chairman**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **STATEMENT OF**

#### **HONORABLE FLOYD SPENCE**

#### **DOE REORGANIZATION HEARING**

The Committee meets this morning to receive further testimony on the critically important issue of how best to reorganize the Department of Energy to better manage and protect some of the nation's most sensitive secrets.

We meet here today in the wake of the revelations of the Cox Committee report and the report of the President's own Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, chaired by Senator Rudman, who recommended a dramatic restructuring of DoE. It is our obligation and our responsibility to fully understand the implications of these reports and to take whatever corrective actions are necessary.

To help us in this regard, today we welcome the Honorable Victor H. Reis, the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Defense Programs. Dr. Reis appears before us as an individual with a wealth of experience, having served for the last six years in his current position. Prior to that, Dr. Reis also served as the Director of Defense Research and Engineering and the Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Dr. Reis's experience certainly qualifies him to comment both on the current security and counterintelligence problems at the DoE labs and on the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board's recommendations for reorganizing the Department. Our witness's testimony will be invaluable to us as we continue to work through the implications of the Cox and Rudman reports and look to initiate corrective actions in the weeks ahead.

There are many different views on how the Department should be reorganized. The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board recommended either a semi-autonomous nuclear weapons agency within DoE or an independent agency, as a means of dramatically improving organizational focus and of changing what Senator Rudman has described as a culture of arrogance and disregard for security concerns at the laboratories.

Regardless of the specific elements of any reorganization plan, virtually all agree that the current structure for the management of the weapons programs within DOE lacks focus, has ambiguous lines of authority and responsibility, and is hindered by duplicative management structures. Any reorganization must better and more clearly define lines of authority and responsibility within DoE.

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These are the principles that guided the reorganization provision now contained in the House-passed defense authorization bill. We will be closely examining other proposals as well. My bottom line is that fundamental change is necessary, and long overdue. Only aggressive action can begin to address DoE's deep-rooted bureaucratic and cultural problems. Whatever steps are taken must, first and foremost, have as their primary objective, a dramatic improvement in the nation's ability to ensure the safety, security, effectiveness and reliability of its nuclear arsenal.

Dr. Reis, I look forward to hearing your views on these issues. I also want to note for our committee members who may not be aware of it that you will be leaving the Department at the end of the month. You have a tough job and have held it for a long time, and all of us who have worked with you know that you have always strived to ensure that the nation's interests come first. I thank you for your years of service and wish you well in the future.

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